

## Predicaments and Countermeasures of Network Supervision in the Government of Anti-Corruption in China

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### Abstract

Network supervision has become a new way of administrative supervision. Because of the failure of traditional administrative supervision, the network supervision is promoted to the the forefront of anti-corruption campaigns. However, network supervision, which is like a double-edged sword, plays a positive role and negative effects in administrative supervision. The network supervision can mobilize the enthusiasm of citizen participation, and it can decrease the cost of supervision. Openness and effectiveness of network can promote the development of network supervision, and also can avoid its dilemmas. Therefore, with the help of laws and regulations and autonomous network, network supervision may exert its particular advantages. It will improve efficiency of administrative supervision.

**Key words:** Network supervision; Governance; Predicament; Countermeasures

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### INTRODUCTION

Currently, the whole world has begun to enter into a high-speed development period. With the further development of Internet technology, network supervision has already

become the populace of people's lives. In the process of spreading information, internet has brought about great changes in social fields. At the same time it also brought about the reform of the political field. Most of the corruption scandals had been exposed according to website, arousing the alert of social public opinion in recent years. And the government in the strong pressure of public opinion is obliged to adopt measures to cope with these scandals. Under such a presupposition, network supervision has the function of anti-corruption. There is no doubt that the internet has aroused the civil consciousness and political participation consciousness. It is advantageous to the government in a timely manner to understand the conditions of the people and reflect their wills. It is benefit for government to build a clean government and stamp out corruption.

### 1. ORGIN OF NETWORK SUPERVISION

With the prosperity of the internet, the occurrence of network supervision become more frequent and its influence is rising. Network has already deeply the people's daily routines and become an essential part of citizens' lives. Meanwhile, network supervision is an important part of administration supervision.

#### 1.1 Failure of Traditional Administrative Supervision Is an Important Reason for the Surge of Network Supervision

First of all, the procedures of traditional administrative supervision are extremely complicated for citizens. Materials of proof collection are very difficult for mass, and accepting authorities often buck-passing each other will lead directly to low response rate. Therefore, citizens are reluctantly to pay the high cost of supervision. Secondly, citizens are faced with the risk of retaliation in network supervision. It could pose a serious threat to the personal safety and property security of whistleblower.

And so, their enthusiasm is greatly dampened. Finally, the public lose their faith in the traditional administrative supervision system. The negative effect of frequent corruption and improperly resolved of mass incidents have dismissed the government.

### **1.2 Social Management Lag and Inaccessibility Channels of Supervision Become the Real Reason for the Surge of Network Supervision**

As the development of information technology, the internet becomes an important medium of expressing personal opinions and protecting our rights. In recent years, there are contradictions between urban management and vendors and the contradictions of the Police with the public and with government officials and the public, those main contradictions will lead to social contradictions and social conflicts. The effects of this action will no doubt ripple across the internet. On one hand, the local governments are lack of enough experience and technology to respond network supervision. On the other hand, the ruling conception of the local government still lags behind the development of technology. Numerous channels for public opinions are petition, media exposure and report. The cost of traditional supervision is very high and informants are vulnerable to risk a sharp reprisal. So network supervision has become the first choice for the public to make one's voice heard.

### **1.3 Continuing Corruption Phenomenon and Unsound Mechanism of Anti-corruption Are the Fundamental Reasons for the Surge of Network Supervision**

It is worth reflecting deeply that corruption still happens despite repeated prohibition in recent years. The reasons of such accidents are not just because of their impact on social life, but also because of their potential impact on causing public dissatisfaction. The corruptions make the great crisis happened stochastically and make various public crisis affairs usually occurred. At the moment, the anti-corruption mechanism is not perfect and civic participation channels are not smooth. People's interests and security cannot be guaranteed effectively for public participation in anti-corruption. The ineffective effect displayed by people's supervision. However, Network supervision can make up the deficiency of traditional supervision. Citizens could participate actively anticorruption and timely detect corrupt phenomenon, and it could protect the public interests from infringement and arouse people's enthusiasm.

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## **2. PARTICULAR ADVANTAGES OF NETWORK SUPERVISION IN THE CORRUPTION GOVERNANCE**

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Network supervision has been used efficiently as a new public media in the anti-corruption governances. One

of the main advantages of network supervision is the range of options available for efficient internet use. In contrast to the traditional administrative supervision, it is hold that network supervision has the features of low cost and convenience; it can arouse the enthusiasm of the public participation. Network is one of the effective ways and measures in combating corruption and encouraging probity. Network supervision is of non-substitutable advantages and importance. And the subjects of network supervision are large than before.

### **2.1 A Great Deal of People Participate in the Network Supervision**

The coverage of the subject of network supervision is very broad, so long as citizens having grasped the simple computer skills can participate in the network supervision in anti-corruption governance. Cyber citizens are the key users in network supervision. Every citizen online has a share in public affairs. Anybody can take part in the competition and discuss on the web irrespective of age, gender and occupation. The internet is becoming more and more popular in China, 5.64 million users were counted online by the end of 2012; an estimate 50.9 million people cyber citizen occurred annual. China's internet penetration is 42.1%, up 3.8% compared with the end of 2011. Based on data, the two indicators will continue to experience growing trend (China Internet, 2013).

### **2.2 Mobilizing the Enthusiasm and Eliminating Discontent of Citizens Participation**

The convenience of network media increases the impossibility for people to participate in network supervision. At the same time, internet users can engage more directly in public opinion via online. The government takes active measures to cope with emergency under pressure. So, the relevant departments actively respond to corruption and further arouse the enthusiasm of anti-corruption. In the course of network supervision, the people can comment on posted content and display dissatisfaction, it will lead to the important of relevant government agencies and corrupt elements will be punished by the law. "A person has a strong desire for violation, with some ways to let the people's emotions be expressed and released, can eliminate aggressive behaviour" (Shen, 1999, p.154). Network supervision as a useful channel to vent frustration plays an important role in maintaining social stability.

### **2.3 Network Supervision With Low Cost and Good Effect**

Compare to the traditional administrative supervision, informants have to enter report information only and provide relevant proofs in the internet, while it may take up to several minutes to complete in the network supervision. And truly let internet users save time and effort save money. It is no doubt that diverse source of network supervisory information cost will greatly

decrease because of its timeliness advantages. If internet users can find illegal phenomenon, the public release information by mobile phone or other equipment on the internet. The government interacts with citizen by the internet, and relevant departments should be available for comments, which can greatly increase the supervisory effectiveness. Network internet will improve report efficiency and corrupt detection rate. Network supervision can supplement favourably the modern administrative supervision and judicial supervision.

#### **2.4 Openness, Dynamic Alternation and Effectiveness of Network Supervision**

The internet has the characters of openness, interaction and effectiveness. With the development of network supervision, the people can attain a stronger driving force and broader free space. Citizen participation becomes one of the most effective means of the network comments. The social impact of network comments could be seen in many aspects of life. At the same time, if the facts once become known, report information can spread fast and they are hard to change. Corrupt officials are difficult to escape the net of justice, and they would make giving up uncorrupted thoughts and behaviours. Network of public opinions, without doubt, plays an educational role in our daily life. A series of corrupt have already been exposed by the web. It is shown that we can see netizens, media and official positive interactions online. The exposures of network anti-corruption cases take on a new kind of regular pattern: internets posting-the top post-the formation of hot spots-media track-event amplification-official investigation-uncover the truth. As network can spread fast, a series of corruption scandals have put a spotlight on bribe-taking. With the pressures of network public opinions, corruptions will be committed to punish. The level of the global fight against corruption also is rising.

### **3. DILEMMAS OF NETWORK SUPERVISION IN ANTI-CORRUPTION GOVERNANCE**

Network anti-corruption, which is like a double-edged sword, has double effects. Therefore, we should exert the particular strengths and recognize clearly the shortages of network supervision. The network supervision confronts several of difficulties in anti-corruption, which can be summarized as follows.

#### **3.1 Limitation of Network Supervision, Completely Unequal to Public Opinion**

For the moment, the main bodies of network supervision are concentrated on higher education young group. However, large numbers of elderly people less educated and farmers have been ruled out of network supervision. The opinions of the internet users represent portion

of public opinion, their opinion cannot amount to a complete the public opinion. At the same time, network supervision amplifies internet user's irrational behaviour. Furthermore, public events being exposed by the internet, a variety of rational and irrational voice eventually forms complicated situations, including insult, snap and so on. Can you deny the impact of network supervision? The answer is negative. These could be negative side effects, including extreme, exaggeration, sedition and aggression; it is hard to pick out genuine signal from network information (Yu, 2009). Not everyone is the capable of discernment. Rushes of emotional comments disturb the normal network supervision.

#### **3.2 Some Lawless Elements Using "Flesh Search" for Invasion of Privacy, Many Network Violence Causes by the Extreme Behaviours**

If internet users could reasonably use "human search engines" into "corrupt officials", and it will become an effective tool in anti-corruption and supervision. Internet users reveal corruption and truth through "human search engines", it brings into play the bigger function. However, some internet users take advantage of anonymity in cyberspace and publish typical of cases of corruption on the web. It is accessible to constitute invasion of privacy and reputation, etc. Some lawless elements may take away greatly from local officials' image and plain undignified; these behaviours will inspire the extreme violence online. At the present, the moral crisis of network supervision is so serious that the normal order of the network supervision and next damage network supervision reputation. The government should regulate and sanction illegal network supervision.

#### **3.3 Lack of Criterion and Long-Term Mechanism of Network Supervision**

As the media with great influence, network supervision assumes more and more important role in society, which can cause the high of attention of traditional media and internet users. From network supervisory specification standpoint, the correlation law and regulations are not perfect in internet supervision (Chen, 2009). At present, a set of law and institutions lag behind the development speed of the internet. On one hand, lack of reasonable norm and effective institution could commit extreme acts. Media tools have been used to influence public opinion and social stability. On the other hand, Lack of a law security system cannot protect the legitimate benefit of commenter and prosecutor. Network supervision is a natural state through blogs, forums and internet user actively engage in discussions. Network legal constructions are comparatively backward and it is difficult to distinguish real new, which cannot play a positive role in network supervision. Moreover, Lack of long-term mechanism of online anti-corruption, unified workflow and feedback mechanism, which cannot play a positive role in network supervision.

## 4. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION OF NETWORK SUPERVISION

Currently, with the rise of network supervision, relevant administrative authorities should remove disadvantages and exert advantages. And authorities should take advantage of network supervision and improve efficiency further. At the same time, it must be noted that network supervision is a double-edge sword, when it is properly used, we will benefit from it. Therefore, administrative authorities should pay high attention to the development of network supervision, making relevant system of network more perfect. This paper did many researches and made some innovative contributions in the following fields.

### 4.1 Strengthening Public Moral Consciousness and Self-Discipline and Enhancing the Level of Network Supervision

The government should promote the standardization of network system and require widespread morality education of Chinese citizens as well. Well-calibrated and well-managed network supervision is interrelated with a good network environment. The effective implementation of the system would not have been possible without the active involvement and cooperation of people. The public could use standard language and consciously control their temper, improve their thinking ability and the distinguishing ability to between true information and false information, so it is urgently required to strengthen the people' ethical quality construction. Self-discipline is rooted in the people' ethical quality, it plays an important role in anti-corruption. We could enhance the public social moral consciousness and self-discipline, which can provide favourable conditions for supervision and upgrade effectively the level of network supervision

### 4.2 Perfecting the Laws and Regulations, Supervision Mechanism through by Law

The effective functions of superiority of network supervision cannot be separated from related safeguard system. The network supervision needs to resort to laws and regulations and autonomous network to regulate at present. The administration should strengthen institutional improvement and promote network self-governance. Institutional constructions mainly refer to personal data protection law and other relevant laws. The characteristics of the network determine the limitations of binding institution. Network supervision has regulated by the construction of internet community of network autonomous, to avoid the downsides of disordered network. Because the correlation law and regulations of the network supervision in China are not perfect, the efficiency of the government supervise is insufficient, and the construction of relevant legal system cannot keep pace with internet speeds. For the lack of institution, every step

should advance with the times, and every effort should be made innovative. The government should protect lawful rights and interests of the people from violation, and internet has regulations to follow. We must obey that there are laws to go by, the laws are observed and strictly enforced and law-breakers are prosecuted. The administration applies internet into the legal and orderly operation of the track, and it will have an extremely positive impact. The government should file a case and timely announce the results on the internet.

### 4.3 Enhancing the Authenticity and Accuracy of the Information

Network supervision includes not only real information but also misinformation. Therefore, network supervision needs to enhance authenticity and accuracy of information. Firstly, related departments should correctly guide accuracy and authenticity of information. The construction of network technology should be strengthened and the full-service platform supervision should be provided. For uncovering corruption phenomenon, the government should strengthen the effective management of network supervision. A good environment for supervision should be set up. The government should enhance not only the strength of related technology, but also the management of network operators. The authenticity and accuracy of information should be checked and verified, and the unauthentic information must be filtered. In the end, internet users should be self-disciplined and do not upload unverified information casually.

### 4.4 Combined With the Traditional Supervision and Network Supervision

Because of the network supervisory with low authority, it needs to give full play to the advantage of traditional supervision. The government should pay attention to function mutual cooperation between the traditional administrative supervision and network supervision. It is necessary for studying from one another in anti-corruption campaign. And network supervision will be more vigour and vitality than traditional administrative supervision. Under the new situation, traditional media works closely with media network, which can enhance the ability of anti-corruption. Along with the rise of the internet media, the trend has gradually transmitted from supervision of the public opinion to internet. Network could disclose the corruption for the first time and citizens participated actively in it, further extending the reach of public opinion. Therefore, corruption by exposing the internet causes the height of related departments and leaders of all levels to take seriously. Recent revelations about corruption are sometimes cited as a cautionary tale. Officials will become more disciplined and regulate their conduct.



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## CONCLUSION

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With the popularization and fast development of the internet, citizens gradually enhance the sense of participation. The related authorities positively get into investigate the corruption cases. At present, network supervision has become important tool and method of anti-corruption. Only by promoting the systematic construction of network supervision and realizing the efficient connection between network supervision and the institutional anti-corruption, network supervision plays its beneficial effects in anti-corruption exercises.

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